

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 6, 17, and 18 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. New claims 20-26 have been added. Claims 1, 5-8, and 10-26 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-6, and 10-18 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection is respectfully traversed. As amended, claim 1 recites “providing market feedback regarding the calculated total bid value to a remainder of the enterprise supplier bidders.” Support for the amendment can be found, without limitation, in the third full paragraph occurring on page 11 of the Specification. Providing feedback is a useful, concrete, and tangible result. For example, it “helps create real-time competitive interaction among bidders in the auction because, without feedback, bidders who are not leading in an auction might not be aware of their relative position and have less incentive to revise price quotes and place additional competitive bids.” (Specification, pages 11-12).

Claims 5-8 and 10-16 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Independent claims 17 and 18 also recite providing “market feedback regarding the calculated total bid value to a remainder of the enterprise supplier bidders” and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

New claims 19-22 recite program code for carrying out the methods of claims 5-7 and 10, respectively. Therefore, it is believed that claims 19-22 are also allowable.

New claims 23-26 recite systems for carrying out the methods of claims 5-7 and 10, respectively. Therefore, it is believed that claims 23-26 are also allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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